

S.N. 09/963,933 Page 4

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 12, 18-21 and 23 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-9, 12, 18-21 and 23 are rejected.

The office action dated December 31, 2003 indicates that claims 18-21 and 23 contain allowable subject matter, but are objected to due to certain "informalities." Claim 18 has been amended to overcome these formalities. Claim 18 and its dependent claims 19-21 and 23 should now be allowed.

The office action also indicates that claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103. The undersigned respectfully disagrees with these rejections, since none of the cited documents provides reason, incentive or motivation for modifying a magnetic tunnel junction in the manner suggested by the examiner. However, these rejections have been rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 1-9 and 12. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuation applications on the cancelled claims.

The amendments above should place the application in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully to issue a notice of allowability. If any issues remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss those issues.